

# Fire Information – Elbow Pass Complex

September 5, 2012 10:00 AM

Incident Team: Type 3 IMT Kyle Inabnit, Brett Witte (T)

Cause: Lightning

Acres: 21,069 acres

Resources: 1 helicopter

Containment 0%

Total Personnel: 16

Contact: Glenda Scott 562-3791

The Elbow Pass Complex is comprised of five different lightning ignitions from July 12 through July 31. These four fires have merged into one fire, the Elbow Pass Complex: Triple Divide Fire, Rapid Creek Fire, Elbow Pass Fire, and Bar Creek Fire. The fires are generally located 25 miles west southwest of Augusta, Montana. The Falls Point fire is south of the Complex. All are located in inaccessible terrain in heavy fuels. The fires are in the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas and are on three national forests.

The Elbow Pass Complex acreage remains at 21,069 acres; 16,259 acres on the Lewis & Clark National Forest, 4,033 acres on the Flathead National Forest, and 777 acres on the Lolo National Forest. Additionally, fire managers are managing the Falls Point fire on the Lolo National forest, currently 222 acres.

## **Yesterday's Activities:**

The fire was not very active due to the cooler temperatures. It continues to creep and smolder with small downhill runs where slope, wind, slope and heat align; the limited activity remains in the west and southwest areas of the fire area.

We gave a fire education program to the Augusta school students which was well received and a lot of fun.

**Todays Update:** The weather forecast for today is warm and dry conditions with 10-15 mph winds from the west. We are expecting cooler weather tomorrow with relative humidity above 30%. With this weather, the potential for active fire behavior and spread is low. Warmer and drier weather by Friday which may cause fire activity to increase. Today, fire managers are planning a reconnaissance flight. Fuels samples will be collected for predicting fire behavior with the curing of vegetation. Structure protection remains in place for Danaher and Basin Cabins. Fire managers assigned to the fire are prepared for initial attack.

**Recreation Opportunities:** While the Benchmark Road is open, the area is closed beginning a half mile west of the road. Numerous trails remain closed. Please check with local offices for specific recreation information. Please note that vehicles parked at the trailhead could be at fire risk due to possible future fire activity. The Benchmark Air Strip is closed, the Augusta air strip is open.

**For more information on these or other wildland fires, and related information visit:**

[www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org) or call:

Augusta Information Station 406-562-3247

Choteau District Office

406-466-5341

Seeley Lake Ranger District 406-677-2233

Spotted Bear Ranger District

406-758-5376